

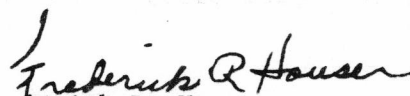
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Washington, D. C.

October 2, 1968

The University Senate

The University Senate will meet on Friday, October 11, 1968, at 2:10 pm, on the sixth floor of the Library.

- Agenda:
- 1) Call to order
 - 2) Minutes of previous meeting
 - 3) Report from Executive Committee, Professor Wood
 - 4) Report of Student Government, Mr. James Knicely
 - 5) Report of Special Senate Committee on University and Urban Affairs, Professor Jones
 - 6) Report from Senate ad hoc Committee on "Faculty" Facilities in the University Center, Professor Weaver
 - 7) A RESOLUTION TO EXTEND TO FOREIGN STUDENTS ELIGIBILITY FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES SCHOLARSHIPS 68/4, Professor St. Cyr, Chairman of Committee on Scholarships
 - 8) Period for brief statements by Senate members and by visitors
 - 9) Adjournment


Frederick R. Houser
Secretary

NOTE: Immediately preceding the meeting a social period will be held from 1:30 to 2:10 pm for Senate members, the President and members of Student Council, and the Editor of the HATCHET.

Members of the Faculty Assembly who are not members of the University Senate are welcome to attend the social period.

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF
THE UNIVERSITY SENATE MAY 21, 1968

The Senate met at 4:00 pm, Tuesday, May 21, 1968, sixth floor Library, President Elliott presiding, to place before the Senate for consideration a request by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference that the George Washington University participate in the Poor People's University.

Before proceeding with the business for which the meeting was called, the chair recognized Professor Cronin, Chairman of the Committee on Administrative Matters as they Affect the Faculty. Professor Cronin circulated among the members a sample business card (which had been provided by Mr. Don Winkler) to obtain the feeling of interest and advice of the Senate as to whether the Committee should proceed with the project which had been started, in view of the fact that several agencies of the University would be involved.

President Elliott relinquished the chair to Vice President Bright, in order to present the topic for discussion, with the following comments:

"On Thursday evening, May 9, in the office of the President of Georgetown University, this paper with its five requests was presented to the presidents of the five consortium universities. The Presidents of Georgetown, Catholic, George Washington, American, and the Acting President of Howard University, received the two representatives of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. They presented us with the Poor People's University Manifesto, with the request that we consider and respond to the requests.

"Since that time we have had a number of discussions, and a number of persons have been involved in making plans aimed at a response to this request. All of the Presidents felt it would be desirable to appoint a liaison person to coordinate participation with the SCLC, and preferably to coordinate responses to the requests through the Consortium of Universities. I appointed Mr. Cantini to be the liaison person from GW. We also felt it would be desirable on the campus to have a campus committee of students and faculty members, in order that each university may have a better opportunity to take such action as seemed best. The list was included in a memorandum mailed to the faculty on May 19, which I believe you have received.

"The Consortium of Universities, working through the Consortium Office, has now prepared a response to the SCLC request, and under date of May 20, 1968, issued a statement. I should make it clear that, as President of The George Washington University, I take full responsibility for GW's response.

"We have been almost constantly in conversation with representatives of SCLC and representatives of other universities through Dr. West of the Consortium Office. There has been a genuine feeling that we wish to cooperate in the effort of the country to respond to the needs of poverty stricken people. However, we are not convinced that the requests made to the universities are the kinds of requests to which we can respond, and continue to carry on the responsibilities which we have as a university.

"I am reflecting the sentiment of the Coordinating Committee

when I say we are looking with sympathy at the total problem, and we are looking about for every means possible to find a positive response that GW can make and still meet our other responsibilities.

"In our discussions with representatives of SCLC we are unable to find definitive answers to how many guests will be arriving, when they will be arriving, and what kind of services would be required to take care of them.

"What was originally proposed was to offer a program of lectures and small discussion groups. The plans of the George Washington University Committee are roughly outlined in the memorandum to which I refer, and that is that we conduct a program of our own between June 3 through the 7th, and that the program be acted upon and participated in by both members of the student body and faculty on a voluntary basis. The students would remain on campus for that week at no cost for the use of dormitory facilities which they occupy.

"Finally, let me say that we are faced with certain dangers within the next few days. Our own Commencement is scheduled for June 2, which falls within the announced period of the operation of the Poor People's University.

"We are also advised that GW is very strategically located to perform a central role in the Poor People's University. This puts GW in the closest geographic position to the point of origin of whatever demonstrations may occur.

"There is danger to George Washington University of damage to property. I would urge all department chairmen, as well as deans, to take special care of student records and files. A few days ago 13,000 records were destroyed at the University of Wisconsin. There is also a danger of fire. Catholic University has had some unfortunate experiences already. We are authorizing additional security in the coming weeks and buildings will be secured more tightly than now.

"Banners that unduly alarm or threaten anyone should be avoided. However, we are today confronted with problems with which we have never been faced before, and it is my hope that all will remain peaceful. With that, I would like to turn to Professor Reuben Wood to launch the discussion of the curriculum content of the proposed Workshop on June 3."

Professor Wood stated that the faculty has been active, and to the extent possible, the Senate and the Executive Committee of the Senate have been invited to keep abreast of developments. A meeting lasting three and a half hours was held on Sunday, May 19, 1968, to discuss a workshop on poverty, and suggestions were made by the faculty present regarding personnel to serve on the committees. Most suggestions in general were received with appreciation and put into effect.

Professor Wood reported that the Executive Committee had met on Friday, May 17, to consider the George Washington University's response to the request for participation in the Poor People's University.

He stated further that President Elliott had made every effort to keep the

Senate informed, and observed that it may be one of the tragedies of our time that the tradition of respect for law and order may be subverted by the actions of those who would take the law into their own hands. He suggested it would be well for the University to study a positive approach to the problem, but at the same time to take a stand of resisting illegal actions from all sources.

In recognizing Mr. James Knicely, President Elliott pointed out that Mr. Knicely had originated the idea of the GW Workshop on Poverty. Mr. Knicely stated that he believed any study the University made would be valid, and that working with the SCLC would be valuable as part of an educational experience for faculty and students.

Professor Jones expressed the wish that "the climate had been such that we could have responded positively to all requests of SCLC." However, he felt that control by the University over the curriculum was very important, and since the campus could not be turned over to the poor people, it would be an educating experience for the faculty and students to sit down with them and discuss the problems.

Professor Stephens reported that he had learned a great deal, but he stressed the difficulty he had experienced in understanding sufficiently the problem; and that many of his students had had considerably more experience addressing themselves to the problem. He pointed out that it appeared the SCLC was not always consistent, and very often not constructive in their demands; and their mode of operation seemed to be one of asking for a great deal, then awaiting the reactions. He expressed pleasure that GW had worked out some type of positive response to the issues, and not simply to the representatives of SCLC alone. The program, he felt, was of extreme importance and it should be taken very seriously.

Professor Mondale reported his attendance at the conference at Yale, and that he was impressed with the need for immediate action. He too expressed pleasure with GW's response as an institution.

Professor Hill questioned whether it had been determined how many GW students would wish to remain on campus to participate, and the number of students participating in the Poor People's University expected.

Professor Stephens replied that an estimated 5,000 to 15,000 students might be expected, and he felt there was a need for a dispersal of the students on all campuses. He said again that it was apparent there was no plan of operation, "they generalize and let facts evolve; there is no way of determining what number and types of students we can expect."

After Professor Jones's remarks that the program at GW would be designed for a set number of students that could be handled effectively, President Elliott observed what he termed the obvious. "The plans, plus the unknowns in the weeks ahead, are matters which simply must occupy our attention. I would like very much to be in a position not only to get a large scale participation of the University Senate, but particularly to keep ourselves informed insofar as is possible on day-to-day developments.

"In calling this meeting, neither the Executive Committee nor I had any specific proposals for action to put before the Senate, but it became apparent as the situation was discussed that all of us needed to be better informed and to receive all suggestions that might be helpful under the circumstances."

Professor Mondale stressed that the problem was one with which the members of the Senate should be concerned. The plan as formulated, he said, would depend upon how many faculty members responded and he hoped that a great deal of support from the faculty could be generated.

Professor Jones then moved, seconded by Professor Brewer, the Senate accept and approve the statement of plans submitted by the George Washington University Coordinating Committee to conduct a Workshop on Poverty to begin on June 3, 1968. The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:12 pm.


Frederick R. Houser
Secretary